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St. John's, NL
News Release

NSO Musicians Head to Labrador For School Tour and Community Events

This week members of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra are travelling to Labrador to visit schools and engage in a series of outreach activities. The *Home in a New World 2022 Tour* features members of the NSO Brass Quintet, principal percussionist and support staff, as well as Inuk soprano Deantha Edmunds.

"We are so delighted to be undertaking this tour, especially now, as we have developed new NSO subscribers and supporters in Labrador through our online concert series in the past two years," said Hugh Donnan, CEO of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra. "We have wanted to return to Labrador for many years and this year it has finally become a reality. The tour group is excited to be able to visit, perform and work with students and groups in Labrador and to share music and ideas."

The touring ensemble is embarking on a schools tour of Labrador, visiting Nain, North West River, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The ensemble will also be engaging with a number of schools throughout the province via virtual platforms.

During the school visits the ensemble will present *Harmony in Ulliasuk* written by Kyle McDavid and featuring Deantha Edmunds. The presentation is an original musical/historical work, featuring an educational performance for brass quintet, percussion, voice, keyboard, and two actors – Edmunds, and a local youth performer from each school. Students will hear the true story of Martha Joshua, an Inuk woman from Labrador who, at age 7, survived the Spanish Flu pandemic 100 years ago.

"The presentation celebrates the notion of "home" and what it may mean to each individual," said Kyle McDavid, creator of *Harmony in Ulliasuk*. "Students will be able to reflect on the resilience and survivorship of Martha Joshua's pandemic experience and connect their own experiences of living through a pandemic to her story. They'll gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to be together and care for one another's well-being."

Students will engage with the NSO touring ensemble through a series of individually designed Brass, Percussion, Vocal, Songwriting, and Production and Technical Workshops. They will also participate in a Play-In/Sing-In experience which will involve rehearsing and performing school-level arrangements of the popular spiritual Goin' Home set to Dvořák's Symphony no. 9 – Movement II: Largo from New World Symphony.

On Thursday June 2nd, the touring ensemble will perform a free concert at the Lawrence O'Brien Arts Centre in Happy Valley – Goose Bay. This one-hour concert takes place at 7:30pm and all are welcome

The NSO Touring Ensemble includes: NSO Brass Quintet (Katie Sullivan, Jill Dawe, Emily Dunsmore, Hillary Simms, and Catherine Tansley), NSO Principal Percussionist, Rob Power, Inuk Soprano, Deantha Edmunds, with Kyle McDavid, piano and NSO Production/AV Manager Steve Power.

The *Home in a New World 2022 Tour* was made possible through the support of a number of generous community-minded partners including: ArtsNL, Woodward Oil, Rio Tinto-IOC, PAL (Provincial Airlines) and Long & McQuade.

For more information visit: <https://nsomusic.ca/concert/nso-goes-to-labrador/>

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Media Contact:

Hugh Donnan, CEO

hd@nsomusic.ca

(709) 689-7237